

## **Statement from Cllr Sarah Gibson on proposed trial of a one-way system**

A town council meeting on Tuesday 30 July will discuss a plan to ask Wiltshire Council to trial a one-way system through Bradford on Avon.

Commenting Cllr Sarah Gibson said:

“I would welcome a physical, on-the-ground, trial of a one-way system for Bradford on Avon, both north and south of the river. While computer generated modelling of a one-way system is vital too, an on the ground trial will allow residents to experience for themselves the advantages and disadvantages and to see which roads become clearer and which become busier.

“For me the most important advantage of a one-way system in the central areas of the town will be that vehicles will not occupy more than one lane, which I see as the only way to increase space for pedestrians, which is very important in roads such as Silver Street, Market Street and Frome Road.

“The bridge, however, will remain a pinch point. With 20,000 vehicle crossings a day, we are not in a position to consider alternating one-way traffic over the town bridge. I would therefore still propose a simple, cost-effective pedestrian bridge from the library car park to Lambs Yard. This was by far the most popular suggestion following the river crossing survey I carried out 2 years ago.

“Any one-way system will need to be carefully designed and managed to avoid speeding up the traffic through the town. A benefit of a one-way system should be to keep traffic flowing at

busy times but not to risk increasing speeds which will endanger pedestrians and encourage more through traffic. The inclusion of planters and wider pavements will help to manage traffic flow and speed.

“My suggestion would be that we ask Wiltshire Council to conduct this trial, but:

- that it is timed so that we see the effect both during school term time, and over a holiday period – with computer modelling also used to assess impacts in different circumstances;
- that it should not be implemented without the carefully designed speed management that will be needed;
- that it is made very clear to the residents of Bradford, especially those living or working on the streets affected that this is a trial, and its purpose is to study the effects - both good and bad;
- And, finally, that after the trial a comprehensive public engagement exercise is held to evaluate the positive outcome and any negative effects.

“While supporting a trial, I regret that the meeting to vote on the proposal has been called at short notice, during the summer holiday period and with little opportunity to engage residents. I hope as many as possible will attend the meeting on 30 July so that a wide range of views can be heard.”

The meeting is expected to begin at about 8pm in St Margaret’s Hall, after the Community and Recreation Committee <https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/events/event/extraordinary-full-council-meeting-190730/>

Ends

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